UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/493,220	01/28/2000	Alison Joan Lennon	169.1595	1967

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EXAMINER
PHAM, HUNG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2168	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/493,220	LENNON, ALISON JOAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	HUNG Q. PHAM	2168

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>04/09/07</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1,2,4-12,17,18,36,37,39-47,52,53,71,119 and 120</u>.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None · of the:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070622</u> .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

HUNG PHAM
HUNG PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 2168

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, GREGORY WEAVER, on 06/20/07.   -

- In the Claims filed on 04/09/2007, please:

REPLACE claims 1, 2, 4-12, 17, 18, 36, 37, 39-47, 52, 53, 71, 119 and 120 with the following claims 1, 2, 4-12, 17, 18, 36, 37, 39-47, 52, 53, 71, 119 and 120 (without strike-through and underlining markings).

1. A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said method comprising the steps of:

generating descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources, the generated descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and comprising descriptor components classified as either table-of-contents descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

displaying items for selection, each displayed item corresponding to a table-of-contents descriptor component of a generated description;

receiving a selection of one or more of said displayed items;

displaying further items for selection, the further items corresponding to index descriptor components that are associated with one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed items;

receiving a selection of one of said displayed further items;

providing a representative value associated with said selected further item;

forming a query from the index descriptor component corresponding to said selected one of said displayed further items and said provided representative value;

searching said generated descriptions to return one or more table-of-contents descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed items; and

displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said returned one or more table-of-contents descriptor components.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each generated description is represented in a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of viewing, in response to a selection of one of said still further displayed items, the portion of the electronically-accessible resources corresponding to a returned table-of-contents descriptor component linked to by the selected one of said still further displayed items.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources are generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the generated descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

8. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

11. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise information about an electronic device.

17. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a descriptor component is classified to be a table-of-contents descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a descriptor component is classified to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not classified to be a table-of-contents descriptor.

36. An apparatus for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said apparatus comprising:
a processor;
means for generating descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources, the generated descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and comprising descriptor components classified as either table-of-contents descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;
means for displaying items for selection, each displayed item corresponding to a table-of-contents descriptor component of a generated description;
means for receiving a selection of one or more of said displayed items;

means for displaying further items for selection, the further items corresponding to index descriptor components that are associated with the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed items;

means for receiving a selection of one of said displayed further items;

means for providing a representative value associated with said selected further item;

means for forming a query from the index descriptor component corresponding to said selected one of said displayed further items and said provided representative value;

means for searching said generated descriptions to return one or more table-of-contents descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed items; and

means for displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said returned one or more table-of-contents descriptor components.

37. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said means for generating the descriptions represents each description in a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

39. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, further comprising viewing means for viewing, in response to a selection of one of said still further displayed items, the portion of the electronically-accessible resources corresponding to a returned table-of-contents descriptor component linked to by the selected one of said still further displayed item.

40. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources are provided using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

41. The apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42. The apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

43. The apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

44. The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

45. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

46. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

47. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the electronically-accessible resources comprise information about an electronic device.

52. The apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein a descriptor component is classified to be a table-of-contents descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

53. The apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein a descriptor component is classified to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not classified to be a table-of-contents descriptor.

71. A computer storage medium, having a computer program recorded thereon, where the program is executable to perform a procedure for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said computer program comprising:

code for generating descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources, the generated descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and comprising descriptor components classified as either table-of-contents descriptor components or index descriptor

components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component having a link to a corresponding

portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

 code for displaying items for selection, each displayed item corresponding to a table-of-

contents descriptor component of a generated description;

 code for receiving a selection of one or more of said displayed items;

 code for displaying further items for selection, the further items corresponding to index

descriptor components that are associated with the one or more table-of-contents descriptor

components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed items;

 code for receiving a selection of one of said displayed further items;

 code for providing a representative value associated with said selected further item;

 code for forming a query from the index descriptor component corresponding to said

selected one of said displayed further items and said provided representative value;

 code for searching said generated descriptions to return one or more table-of-contents

descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-

contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more of said displayed

items; and

 code for displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said

returned one or more table-of-contents descriptor components.

119. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the

electronically-accessible resources is a spatially localized extent of the resources.

120. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the

electronically-accessible resources is a temporally localized extent of the resources.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record do not render obvious, nor anticipate the combination of claimed

elements including the technique of *generating descriptions of the electronically-accessible resources, the*

generated descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and comprising descriptor components

classified as either table-of-contents descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources and *displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said returned one or more table-of-contents descriptor components* as recited in claims 1, 36 and 71. Thus, claims 1, 36 and 71 are allowed. Dependent claims 2, 4-12, 17, 18, 37, 39-47, 52, 53, 119 and 120 are allowed at least by virtue of their dependencies from claims 1 and 36.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q. PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TIM T. VO can be reached on 571-272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HUNG Q PHAM
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2168

June 21, 2007